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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending November 20, 2005

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

We would like to take this opportunity and extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every reporter who helped us this year in putting the **Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup** together. We could not have done it without you. Our sincerest wishes also go out for everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season.

- Staff of NASS-Pennsylvania Field Office

Good Week for Field Work: Most crops are being harvested and the year is starting to come to a close. The first big frost came this past week as nighttime temperatures dropped into the twenties. Soybean and corn yields remain superb, but storage is still hard to come by. Because of this, some of the remaining harvesting is taking longer than expected, and loaded trucks have nowhere to unload the harvested crop. Most individuals are putting away equipment and working on repairs so everything will be ready to go for next year. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, harvesting corn, and harvesting soybeans.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Nov 20, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	6	77	17

Crops: Fall plowing in now at 89 percent complete, slightly behind last year's pace. Ninety-one percent of the soybean crop is now harvested, which is ahead of the previous year's pace as well as the five-year average. The corn for grain is now nearing completion at 96 percent harvested, well ahead of the previous year and the 5-year average. Winter wheat planting is now complete as 85 percent of the crop has already emerged. This season's wheat is doing very well as 72 percent is rated as either good or excellent. This year's apple harvest is now complete, which took somewhat longer than in years past.

Livestock: Another week was spent spreading manure and lime throughout the fields. Cold weather made it hard for conditions to

improve. A good portion of pastures have been reported as soggy, muddy, and rough to travel through. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 14 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

U.S. as of November 13, 2005: Highlights: Mostly dry weather and record warmth further stressed pastures and winter grains across the South, primarily from the Appalachians westward. In fact, warm weather had prevailed nearly nationwide, promoting winter wheat emergence and growth in areas with adequate soil moisture reserves. The record warmth helped fuel a strengthening storm system in the Nation's mid section, which brought gale-force winds to the Great Lakes and Midwest by midweek. Winds reached 74 mph (hurricane force) on Lake Superior as the storm moved northward through the region. The storm also triggered severe thunderstorms in the eastern Corn Belt on November 8, reaching western Pennsylvania and western New York the following day.

Mild weather again prevailed nearly nationwide, with the exception of the Pacific Northwest and parts of New England. Temperatures averaged over 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal over most of the Nation. Mostly dry conditions in these areas encouraged final summer crop harvest. Meanwhile, in the Northeast, continued rainfall maintained excessive soil moisture levels in most areas. Corn: Harvest advanced to 95 percent complete, compared with 85 percent last year and 91 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Ohio and Texas. Winter Wheat: Acreage emerged, at 88 percent, was 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 20, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - November 20, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	70	26	43	0	1.03	4	24.74	-4.34	80	3,216	569	5,274
Franklin	67	21	40	0	1.09	4	28.25	-2.17	121	2,803	394	4,841
Meadville	67	22	39	-1	1.02	4	27.13	-3.90	92	2,904	700	4,933
Mercer	68	21	40	0	1.08	4	29.01	0.01	115	2,909	525	4,932
Springboro	68	24	40	-3	0.89	5	31.21	3.23	103	2,664	77	4,638
Warren	66	24	41	3	0.88	3	27.96	-2.98	92	2,762	439	4,771
North Central												
Bradford Region	61	20	39	4	1.24	4	31.66	1.09	106	2,152	497	4,051
Emporium	64	22	40	3	1.28	3	24.45	-5.58	97	2,745	860	4,751
Kane	63	21	38	3	1.29	4	27.26	-4.08	84	2,047	433	3,923
Laporte	61	22	39	-1	1.71	5	32.58	4.26	102	2,437	60	4,383
Lock Haven	69	22	42	2	1.06	3	21.01	-6.74	81	3,158	627	5,257
Port Allegany	63	23	40	5	1.24	3	26.18	-3.04	93	2,338	502	4,251
Renovo	69	24	43	3	1.07	3	19.76	-7.99	82	3,104	573	5,201
Ridgway	64	20	39	2	1.31	4	26.78	-3.25	90	2,384	499	4,337
Stevenson Dam	70	24	46	9	1.25	3	23.02	-7.01	88	2,964	1,079	5,069
Towanda	66	24	42	3	0.87	3	25.53	1.83	83	2,877	479	4,907
Wellsboro	62	20	39	3	1.20	3	30.00	6.36	82	2,278	498	4,195
Williamsport	68	24	44	4	1.17	3	30.00	2.01	69	3,368	576	5,502
Northeast												
Hawley	65	18	39	0	0.96	3	28.81	1.94	83	2,555	514	4,512
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	24	45	5	0.50	3	21.77	-4.10	79	3,454	807	5,568
Susquehanna	67	22	41	5	1.22	3	31.43	2.39	96	2,731	808	4,732
West Central												
Butler	69	20	40	-2	1.59	4	26.77	-1.54	94	2,951	448	5,033
New Castle	69	21	41	1	1.24	2	29.21	3.07	84	3,243	737	5,360
Slippery Rock	69	23	42	3	1.21	3	28.61	0.61	93	3,030	788	5,160
Central												
Altoona/Blair	64	19	43	2	0.90	3	14.53	-10.75	66	2,948	283	5,039
DuBois	63	19	41	2	1.56	3	25.57	-2.93	118	2,726	449	4,764
Lewistown	68	22	43	0	0.85	3	23.94	-3.10	75	3,343	413	5,506
Middletown	70	25	46	3	0.25	2	23.43	-3.58	68	3,967	638	6,195
Prince Gallitzi	63	20	40	1	0.97	3	22.73	-9.44	89	2,513	384	4,496
Selinsgrove	68	23	42	1	1.12	3	26.21	-1.97	77	3,214	494	5,330
State College	66	20	42	2	0.85	3	19.81	-5.76	87	3,143	532	5,271
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	72	20	45	3	1.01	3	33.95	4.64	78	3,572	533	5,749
Lehighton	68	21	41	-2	1.14	3	30.40	1.11	80	3,150	223	5,266
Matamoras	70	20	41	2	0.88	3	39.29	9.64	90	2,788	175	4,822
Tobyhanna	69	22	43	8	1.11	3	35.95	3.85	109	3,106	1,361	5,219
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	71	20	43	3	1.22	4	22.10	-4.42	95	3,592	900	5,763
Derry	71	21	44	4	1.48	3	26.57	-0.88	77	3,071	537	5,192
Myersdale	66	15	39	-3	0.91	3	22.52	-7.48	82	2,368	-130	4,336
Mount Pleasant	75	18	42	3	0.89	3	28.29	-3.04	96	2,950	692	5,054
Pittsburgh Intl	70	19	41	-1	1.30	4	25.99	1.40	85	3,399	579	5,534
Rector	68	18	41	2	1.13	4	26.78	-4.55	113	2,959	701	5,058
Waynesburg	76	15	41	-1	0.98	3	23.28	-3.54	83	3,095	498	5,200
South Central												
Biglerville	67	21	44	-2	0.24	2	29.06	3.32	78	3,491	235	5,671
Everett	62	19	40	-2	0.65	3	17.81	-7.04	74	2,424	-234	4,432
Hanover	70	20	45	1	1.01	2	29.72	3.98	73	3,478	222	5,656
Shippensburg	67	21	43	0	0.47	3	27.61	2.52	86	3,514	271	5,685
South Mountain	64	19	42	0	0.51	2	28.54	3.26	74	2,951	298	5,095
York	71	18	45	2	0.72	2	23.46	-3.79	65	3,525	271	5,692
Southeast												
Green Lane	72	23	45	3	1.11	2	29.80	1.37	73	3,547	655	5,737
Hamburg	70	21	44	4	1.04	3	28.78	-4.22	75	3,529	922	5,708
Hopewell	71	23	45	0	1.12	3	32.94	3.28	97	3,564	115	5,756
Lancaster	70	23	46	4	1.16	2	29.63	1.12	72	3,677	611	5,867
Neshaminy Falls	73	21	45	3	1.01	2	34.10	1.71	66	3,379	355	5,530
New Holland	69	23	46	3	1.02	2	32.83	4.32	71	3,764	698	5,970
Philadelphia	76	29	50	5	0.78	1	26.89	-0.49	67	4,265	686	6,531
Philadelphia NE	75	26	50	5	0.87	2	30.49	3.11	69	4,136	557	6,387
Reading	72	23	46	4	0.99	2	26.84	-3.52	73	3,842	842	6,041
Valley Forge Na	68	20	44	-2	0.93	1	27.95	-1.71	56	3,398	-51	5,540
Willow Grove	73	17	48	6	0.30	1	26.69	-5.70	51	3,783	759	6,002

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a beautiful weekend last week with nice daytime temps and a lot of sun. During this week however the daytime temps changed to around 50 degrees or less for the majority of the week and nighttime temps dipped down into the twenties. Wednesday the county received some rain and a lot of wind which did not help the corn and soybean stalks any. Corn and soybeans continue to be harvested in the county. The producers are running into difficulty when they have their trucks full because the mills are only accepting so much a day due to almost being at full capacity in their storage facilities. Some producers are making piles in their sheds due to not having anywhere else to go with the crops. Apple harvest is just about finished in the county. Within a couple of days all apple harvest will be complete. Windy conditions have caused some apples to drop off prior to pickers getting to the trees. Some growers are starting to push out orchard trees that are at an age that is not beneficial for them to keep and will continue to do over the winter months. Wheat is still being sown in the county. Other wheat that has been planted is slow to emerge and needs some sunny days with warmer temps to help the crop out.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - We had our first hard freeze this week. Low in the lower 20's ended the growing season. No significant rain again this week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Good week for field work, 3/8" of rainfall added to my gauge.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - 2005 for the most was an excellent year for farming in the Warren, Forest, Venango, and Clarion Counties.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - Most of the crops is harvested. Some farmers are bringing in green chop, liming fields, emptying manure storage facilities and installing conservation practices.

MONTGOMERYCOUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Heavy rain Wednesday evening put a hold on field activities for most of the week. Most of the soybeans are done and corn is getting close to the end. Small grains that were planted in early October are looking good and the warm weather in the past week helped most of the later planted wheat emerge. It looks like the weather has changed to more seasonal this coming week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The harvesting of corn and soybeans is winding down. The wheat and barley is going into dormancy and looks very good. The alfalfa fields are looking good with only small spots of chickweed showing at this point. Rainfall during the early part of the week was in the range of 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches. The water table is looking good going into winter. The main activities for the week were harvesting corn and soybeans, spreading manure, and chopping corn stalks.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 20, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	89	93	83
Corn, harvested	96	88	84
Wheat, emerged	85	88	92
Soybeans, harvested	91	82	81

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 20, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	2	25	55	17
Pasture	14	17	40	24	5

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